

# ANNUAL REPORT

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of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the  
EPPING RURAL DISTRICT  
for the Year 1939



## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	34,856 acres
Resident Population Mid 1939 (Estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	15,570
Average Population (Estimated) appropriate to the calculation of Death Rates	...	...	...	...	...	16,100
Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	...	0.89
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1939)	...	...	...	...	...	4,895
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£87,107.0s.0d.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£344.14s.9d.
Rainfall for the Year:-	...	...	...	...	...	

					1939
January	...	...	...	...	6.19
February	...	...	...	...	.92
March	...	...	...	...	1.46
April	...	...	...	...	2.94
May	...	...	...	...	1.59
June	...	...	...	...	1.42
July	...	...	...	...	1.91
August	...	...	...	...	5.12
September	...	...	...	...	1.32
October	...	...	...	...	5.33
November	...	...	...	...	3.82
December	...	...	...	...	1.09
					<u>33.11</u>

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

						Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population
Live Births	( Legitimate	115	107 )	Total		14.70
	( Illegitimate	2	5 )	229		
Still Births	Legitimate	5	5	10		41.84
Deaths	...	95	80	175		Death rate per 1000 of the est. average population 10.86
Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List).						
No.29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Deaths		Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births
No.30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	Nil		Nil
				1		4.18
	Total	...	...	1		4.18

# Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1000 live births	26.20
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	26.20
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	18
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

## Ages at which Deaths occurred:-

under 1 year	6
1 and under 2	1
2 " " 5	-
5 " " 15	1
15 " " 25	3
25 " " 35	6
35 " " 45	5
45 " " 55	12
55 " " 65	31
65 " " 75	46
75 and upwards	64
	<u>175</u>

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Thirteen cases of Scarlet Fever and eleven of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable on 23rd October 1939. Only one case of Measles and one of Whooping Cough were notified before the end of December.

During the year ninety-one children were immunised against Diphtheria under the Scheme adopted in December 1938.

*W. J. G. R. M.*

Medical Officer of Health.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

	All Ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65	Rem. to Hosp.
Scarlet Fever	13	0	0	1	2	0	7	0	1	2	0	0	0	13
Diphtheria	11	0	0	0	1	2	4	0	0	3	0	1	0	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2
Pneumonia	17	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	4	7	0	0
Erysipelas	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	4
Totals	49	0	1	1	3	2	13	1	2	10	4	10	2	30

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 " 5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
5 - 15	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15 - 25	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 - 35	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 - 45	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 - 55	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 - 65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	4	4	1	1	1	0	0	0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY:

	<u>Qualifications, Certificates, etc.</u>
(1) W. F. Erskine, Medical Officer of Health (Part time)	M.A., M.D., D.P.H. (T.C.D.)
(2) H. J. Heeley, Chief Sanitary Inspector.  Chief Billeting Officer.  Authorised Officer under Factories Act, 1937, also under Section 25(2) of the Defence Regulations, 1939.	(a) Certificate of Sanitary Inspectors Examination Board.  (b) London Certificate in Sanitary Science.  (c) Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and other Foods.
(3) W. F. Dascombe, Sanitary Inspector.	(a) Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.  (b) Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and other Foods.

In presenting this report upon the work of the Department I would state that it has, in accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Health, been made as brief as possible.

The activities of the Department have been very much curtailed during the year, owing to the staff being engaged upon work of Civil Defence, chiefly connected with Billeting under the Government Evacuation Scheme. The organising of the Scheme, in order to ensure smooth running and a successful result, commenced in September 1938 and continued until Evacuation commenced.

Report to Council, 14th September, 1939.

" The evacuation of school children and teachers, Mothers and children under five and expectant mothers, was carried out over a period of three days, namely, from 1st September to 3rd September inclusive. As Reception Officer for this Area and for the Epping Urban District I received 2,993 persons, of these 921 were sent to the Urban Area and 2,072 to this Area.

Nursing services were available at the Station but only one case needed attention.

The numbers sent to the various Parishes were as follows:-

Epping Upland	33
Harlow -	
Town	370
Potter Street and Harlow Common	106





Matching	75
Magdalen Laver	40
North Weald -	
Gullett	211
Thornwood	63
Netteswell and Little Parndon	111
Nazeing	284
Great Parndon	72
Roydon	300
Sheering	56
Theydon Bois	320
Theydon Garnon	31
	<u>2,072</u>

On arrival at the dispersal points arrangements were made to give the evacuees refreshment. Inspection of the children for infectious disease, head and body lice and scabies was carried out. No case of infectious disease was found. Fourteen cases of children infected with head lice and later ten cases of children suffering from scabies were found. The worst of these were treated at the Public Assistance Institution.

The work of billeting was carried out smoothly, only in a few cases was difficulty met. At midday on the second day of evacuation the arrival of school children ceased and mothers and children under five commenced. 915 children and teachers had arrived and at the end of the third day 1,132 mothers and children had been dealt with and billets found.

Notification was received that 70 expectant mothers were coming into the area but we received 165. Special billets had to be found for these but it was impossible to house 21 of the cases. After some delay, these expectant mothers were housed in the Public Assistance Institution for the night and moved out into the Ongar District the next morning. Of the expectant mothers brought into the district over 40 have already had their babies.

In three cases it has been necessary to requisition houses for billeting purposes. Generally the scheme prepared for the reception of these mothers and children has worked very well but we have had to meet difficulties which were not anticipated. The influx of such a large number of expectant mothers with limited maternity hospital accommodation was indeed a serious problem. The dirty, sloven and undomesticated mother with uncared for children presented another grave difficulty. In these cases it is realised that it is impossible to put these people into decent clean homes and as far as possible empty houses were made use of for this purpose. Generally the children of school age are well behaved and have been happily received into the homes of our people, only five cases of unruly children have been brought to my notice.

It is necessary for a stringent check to be kept on money paid out by the Post Office in respect of billets and it is proposed to commence within the next few days a system of investigation and checking. I would take this opportunity to thank all the Billeting Officers and Helpers, the Nursing Services, to those who lent cars and to my Staff for the very great help and generous support they have given in this extremely difficult work of receiving evacuated people".

Since then the Department has had much work to do in connection with this problem in visiting and changing billets, checking up monies paid, which at the beginning amounted to £608.7s.6d. per week. However, it is the intention of the Department to continue as far as possible with its normal duties.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER.

The whole of the District, other than the Parish of Little Parndon, has wholly, or in part, a piped supply of water, supplied by the Herts. and Essex Water Company. The supply is sufficient and of satisfactory quality.

The water supply at Glen Faba and Riverfields Estates, Roydon, a camping area is unsatisfactory.

The following extensions of water mains have been carried out by the Water Company:-

New Council Houses, Sheering	244 yds.	3"
Roden Close, Harlow	30 "	3"
From Morgan Crescent along Heath Drive, Theydon Bois	128 "	4"
Blacksmiths Arms via Woodside to North Weald Aerodrome	2718 "	6"
To Brook House, Theydon Garnon	3080 "	12"
Brook House, Theydon Garnon to Theydon Bois	2420 "	9"
Along Carpenters' Arms Lane, Thornwood	156 "	3"

Ten water samples taken from wells were submitted to the Analyst for Chemical and partial Bacteriological examination. Nine of these were found to be unsatisfactory. Action was taken in each case and in three cases the supply was improved or an alternative supply obtained. It will not be possible to carry out further works of improvement relating to these cases until after the war.

Arrangements have been made with the Herts. and Essex Water Company for a copy of the Analyst's report to be supplied to the Department relating to samples of water taken from the Water Mains in the area, and similar reports of samples taken from the mains by your Officers are sent to the Water Company. Seven samples have been obtained during the year, these were found to be satisfactory.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

#### Nazeing.

Reconstruction of drainage systems and connections to the sewer has been carried out in forty-nine cases.

Although nuisances and insufficiencies do not exist at premises not connected, it is felt desirable that all house drains should be connected, and that the work should proceed as soon as possible. At the time of writing this report the position is as follows:-

222 premises connected under supervision of Public Health Department
22 premises connected under supervision of Surveyor's Department
98 premises not connected

#### North Weald.

The Minister of Health has approved a Scheme for the sewerage of the area, Tylers Cross, Church Road and Weald Bridge Road, North Weald, where serious nuisances exist due to overflowing cesspools and the work is progressing.





### Theydon Bois and Epping Upland.

The work of laying sewers and completing disposal works has almost reached its conclusion. The work of making sewer connections in order that nuisances may be abated is proceeding.

### Sheering.

Nuisances in this Parish still exist owing to the want of a proper sewerage system.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Little pollution of rivers and streams takes place. Action is always taken to abate, as far as possible, any pollution of water courses.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The conversion of closets from the conservancy system is dealt with, where possible, as nuisances or as insufficiencies arise. The question of course depends on the extension of sewers and where this takes place conversion to the water carriage system will follow.

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse is collected throughout the area and disposed of by controlled tipping.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	5,386
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	402
Number of Statutory Notices served	..	...	...	23

### NATURE OF WORKS COMPLETED.

Roofs repaired or re-constructed	...	...	...	12
Gutters and rain water pipes repaired or provided	...	...	...	11
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	1
Verminous rooms cleansed	...	...	...	1
Dampness remedied in rooms	...	...	...	76
Floors relaid or repaired	...	...	...	20
Lighting and Ventilation provided to rooms	...	...	...	38
Walls and Ceilings repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	25
Foodstores provided	...	...	...	1
Ventilation provided to Foodstores	...	...	...	7
Drains reconstructed or repaired	...	...	...	58
Drains unstopped...	...	...	...	4
New Connections to Sewer	...	...	...	53
Fresh Air Inlets to Drains repaired or supplied	...	...	...	1
Closet Pans and traps renewed	...	...	...	5
Closet Pails provided	...	...	...	2
Flushing Cisterns repaired	...	...	...	8
Closet structures repaired or renewed	...	...	...	20
Concrete floors to closet repaired or provided	...	...	...	1
Lighting and Ventilation to Closet	..	...	...	15
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	3
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	54
Ditches cleansed	...	...	...	2
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	5
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	95
Sink Waste Pipes trapped or repaired	...	...	...	4
Yards paved or repaired	..	...	...	47
Stoves provided or repaired	...	...	...	54
Main water laid on	...	...	...	3
Wells cleansed	...	...	...	1



Coppers repaired or provided ... ..	19
Wash-house structure repaired ... ..	8
Wash-house floor paved or repaired ... ..	8
Staircases repaired ... ..	9
Window frames and sashcords repaired or renewed	54
Doors repaired ..... ..	10
Outside Plaster and Weather-boarding repaired	12
Information required under Housing Act, inserted	
in Rent Books ... ..	132
Other defects remedied ... ..	<u>21</u>
Total number of defects remedied ...	<u>900</u>

#### SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Periodical visits were made to the various shops in the Area and matters as set out were dealt with under the provisions of the Shops' Act and the Public Health Act.

Offices were also visited but it was not found necessary to take action in any case.

With regard to the shops, action was taken in one case to raise the temperature of both the shop and warehouse.

It is desirable that all shops, other than butchers and fishmongers, should have a temperature of not less than 55°F. and in cases where it is less, action is taken. In the case dealt with, gas radiators were installed to meet the Council's requirements.

Hairdressers and Barbers shops and appliances are controlled under the provisions of the Council's Byelaws made under the Essex County Council Act, 1933, for the purpose of ensuring cleanliness.

#### CAMPING SITES.

Fifty-six Moveable Dwellings and sixteen Camp Licences were issued and eleven applications refused.

#### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are four Swimming Pools and one Swimming Bath in the District, in each case the water used is taken from the River Stort and is not subjected to any form of efficient purification.

#### BED BUGS.

There were no serious cases of bug infestation brought to the notice of the Department during the year.

#### SCHOOLS.

Schools continue to have attention of the Department and periodical surveys are made.

#### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The District being largely agricultural no nuisance from Smoke Pollution has arisen.





## HOUSING

Owing to other duties which it was necessary for the Department to carry out, housing inspections were curtailed. However, 311 premises were inspected.

### NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	By the Local Authority	...	...	64
(2)	By other Local Authorities	...	...	-
(3)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	<u>71</u>
				<u>135</u>

### (I) INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	311
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	1004
(2)	(a)	Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	... ..	263
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	954
(3)		Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	2
(4)		Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	235

### (II) REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:-

	Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	... ..	238
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### (III) ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:-

#### A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	-
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-		
	(a) By Owners	... ..	-
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	-

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	16
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(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:-

(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	13
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	-

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	-
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	7

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	-
(2) Number of separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Tenement or Room having been rendered fit	...	-

(IV) HOUSING ACT, 1936 (PART IV.) - OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	5
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein				5
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein				45
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...		2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...		7
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	....	...	43

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

##### MILK SUPPLY.

Supervision of milk production and distribution continues to be stringently exercised and the standard obtained generally is satisfactory.

There are 96 producers and wholesalers and 61 retailers of milk on the register. 51 of these cowkeepers produce "Accredited" milk and 7 "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

144 samples of milk were taken in the area and submitted to the methylene blue and coliform test, 20 of which were found to be unsatisfactory. 6 samples of milk were taken for Biological examination, one of which was found to be Positive.

##### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughter-houses, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared and stored are visited regularly and close supervision is exercised to detain food-stuffs which are diseased or unwholesome and unfit for human consumption.





A great deal of attention and time is given to the matter of Meat Inspection, and the requirements of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are strictly adhered to. The inspection of Meat is carried out according to the standard laid down in Memorandum 62/Foods.

The Council has not undertaken the work of meat marking under the provisions of Part II. of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

There are six registered slaughter-houses in the District. Occasional slaughtering of pigs takes place at one farm premises by arrangement, the animals being reared at the farm. 2,550 animals were inspected during the year.

#### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

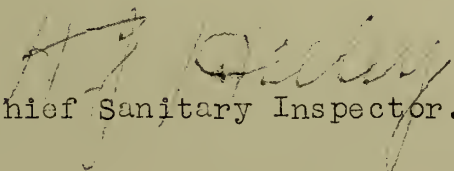
	Cattle excl'dg. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	431	1	41	1154	1340
Number inspected	390	1	35	940	1184
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	47	-	1	31	30
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	12.051%	-	2.856%	3.297%	6.503%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	26	1	-	-	46
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.666%	100%	-	-	4.189%

#### SLAUGHTERMEN.

There are 21 slaughtermen licensed under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

#### ICE CREAM.

There are 62 dealers in Ice Cream, registered as manufacturers and vendors of Ice Cream under the Essex County Council Act, 1933.

  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

